



ST. TAMMANY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
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Website: stmastergardener.org

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Of winter's lifeless world
 Each tree now seems a perfect part;
 Yet each one holds summer's secret
 Deep within its heart.

Charles Slater

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Photo by J Blazek

2019 Class of Master Gardeners

Introducing the 2019 class of St Tammany Parish Master Gardeners:

Trish Andermann, Laura Ansel, Sandy Baker, Sofia Bolin, Tina Boni, Katy Bridges, Paula Brown, Jenny Carleton, Carlos Christina, Brian Connon, Charley Craddock, Louise Dill, Bryan Dixon, Anne Escousse, Robert Fabacher, Donna Guzman, Sara Hamann, Susan Leonard, Janice Lewis, Andrea Massey, DeEtt McClary, Paula Meiners, Colin Pedon, Janice Perkins, Beth Pesses, Betty Porter, Anna Ray, Jim Russell, Phil Simoneaux, Robyn Stephens, Lois Sullivan, Chuck Sullivan, Leaign Anne Wall, Susan Yingst



Welcome to all!

Vegucator Notes: Louisiana Feral Hog Program



On September 25, 2019, Gene Cavalier, along with Bryan Stafford and Bobby Fletcher, presented a lecture to the Vegucators on Louisiana's Feral Hog Management Program. This program is under the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

It is estimated that feral hogs cause \$76 million in agricultural damage in Louisiana each year by uprooting planted seeds, destroying mature crops and uprooting hayfields making hay cutting nearly impossible. There are approximately 700,000 feral hogs in Louisiana and they are present in all 64 parishes.



Feral sows can have 2 litters per year averaging 6 piglets per litter. Statisticians have determined that 75 percent of the population must be harvested annually to maintain a static population.

Feral hogs impact wildlife by direct competition for hard mast resources and by predation on reptiles, amphibians, ground-nesting birds, eggs and mammals, including deer fawns. Hogs uproot both planted and naturally regenerated coniferous and hardwood seedlings. Additionally, their heavy consumption of hard mast significantly reduces natural forest regeneration, encouraging invasive species such as Chinese tallow. Feral hogs have altered entire forest and wetland ecosystems in Louisiana.



Feral hogs increase erosion and shed coliform bacteria into waterways. They carry diseases, such as, Swine Brucellosis, Pseudorabies, Leptospirosis, and Trichinosis .

Vegucator Notes: Louisiana Feral Hog Program, continued

Feral hogs are omnivores and can adapt to nearly any environment from desert to marsh to piney woods and hardwoods and can even survive in subarctic conditions. They have been seen and captured in populated areas, such as Fountainbleau State Park.



Photo by J Blazek

Gene demonstrated to the Vegucators the pen that the department uses now to capture hogs. It is operated in conjunction with a camera and is monitored and activated by cell phone.

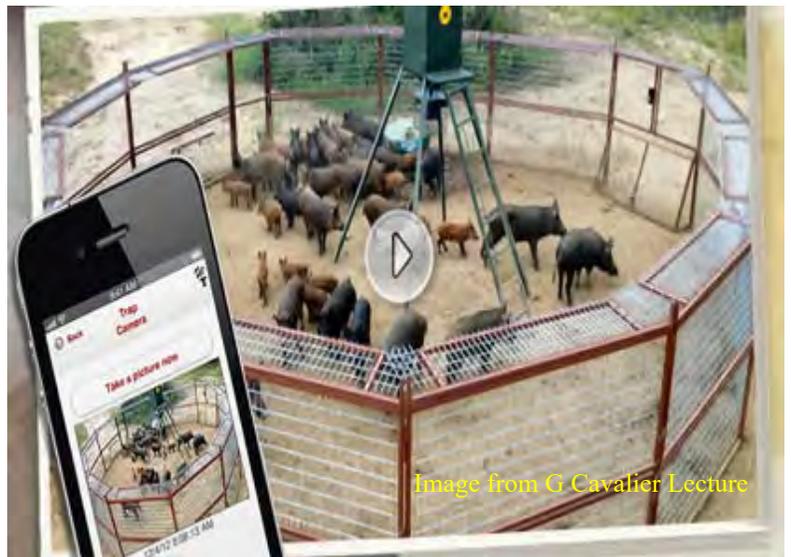


Image from G Cavalier Lecture

More information can be found at:

<https://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/communications/publications/agmag/archive/2010/fall/invasive-feral-swine-in-louisiana>

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/wildlife/feral-hog>

Note: To learn more on this topic, attend the January 15, 2020 general membership meeting of STMGA where a lecture on the impact of feral hogs on Louisiana industry and environment will be presented.

Based on a lecture by G. Cavalier

Jamie Blazek
Master Gardener & Vegucator Editor,
Gardengoer

STMGA Propagation Workshop

Paul and Susie Andres hosted a plant propagation workshop at their home on October 29, 2019. Eighteen St. Tammany master gardeners attended.



Paul demonstrated several types of plant propagation and shared results of his previous propagation efforts.

Greenwood cuttings were taken from white shrimp plants, three types of jacobinia, red fire spikes, cereus plants, and trailing vincas.

Hardwood cuttings were taken from rubber tree plants, Philippine violets, and rosemary plants. Other herbs, such as basil and stevia, were propagated by slip cuttings.



Several other plants were propagated, including spider plants and the Peggy Martin rose bush. Paul also showed the results of his eight-week-old propagation of a fiddle leaf fig.

Paul Andres
Master Gardener
ALNC Volunteer

Vegucator Notes: Growing and Propagating Pineapples



On October 30, 2019 Geralyn Suhor and Theresa Wilfert presented a lecture to the Vegucators on "Growing and Propagating Pineapples".

The pineapple plant is a tropical/subtropical and is usually grown in regions 11 and 12. Southern Louisiana is classified as regions 8 and 9.

Pineapples can be grown in south Louisiana but must be in pots that can be brought inside during the cooler months. Pineapples do not tolerate cool or freezing weather.

The leaves of the plant are semi-rigid and allow the plant to collect water at the base of the leaves, where aerial roots may absorb water and nutrients. Once the plant has produced between 70 and 80 leaves it is ready to flower.

The emergence of the inflorescence (the pineapple fruit itself) is called the red heart stage due to the reddish peduncle bracts at the base of the inflorescence. The inflorescence consists of 50 to over 200 individual flowers and is capped by a crown of numerous short leaves (up to 150).

The individual flowers are hermaphroditic (bisexual) with three sepals and petals, six stamens and one pistil. The flower petals are white at their bases to violet-blue at their tips. Each flower is surrounded by a hairy bract.

Generally, the first flowers open 50 or so days after flower induction. Flowering continues for 20 to 40 days. Usually one to 10 flowers open daily beginning around midnight and each close the following evening.



Vegucator Notes: Growing and Propagating Pineapples, continued



Pineapple plants are self-incompatible, meaning pollen from the same variety will not result in seed production and seedy fruit. However, growing several varieties next to each other that flower simultaneously may result in seedy fruit. To prevent seed formation, either grow only one variety or induce flowering at different times.

You can grow your own plant from a fresh store bought pineapple:

Step 1: Chose a nice green pineapple with a healthy looking top/crown.

Step 2: Grabbing the pineapple in one hand and the top in the other, twist the top off, separating it from the fruit.

Step 3: Remove the bottom one to two inches of leaves. You will begin to see small brown aerial roots between the leaf layers.



Step 4: Place the crown on a counter top for about 24 hours for some drying to occur.

Step 5: Place the crown into some good potting soil in a well draining five to seven inch pot. Alternatively, the crown can be placed in water to allow roots to grow, then into a five to seven inch pot. It may take up to three weeks for roots to grow.

Step 6: Move into larger pot as the plant grows to avoid getting root bound.



Vegucator Notes: Growing and Propagating Pineapples, continued



Be patient. It takes 18 to 24 months for a pineapple to grow on a new plant. But, in the mean time, you will have a beautiful plant to show off. Like it's cousin, the bromeliad, each individual plant will only produce one flower/fruit. Also, like the bromeliad, it may produce pups that you can remove when they are about six inches tall, and place in a pot to produce a new plant.

Don't forget to bring your pineapple plant inside when the weather turns cold and you will enjoy the fruits of your labor for years to come.

For lots more information you can find the full PowerPoint presentation on the Agcenter classroom computer.



References:

Gardening Know How: Growing Pineapples: Learn About The Care Of Pineapple Plants

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/edible/fruits/pineapples>

HGTV.COM, Fruit Gardening Plants Planting and Maintenance

How to Grow a Pineapple, Andrew Carberry, Food Systems Expert

How to Grow a Pineapple, <https://www.webquestions.co/questions/how-to-grow-a-pineapple>

How to Grow Pineapple at Home by Patricia, Facy Staff

Pineapple Growing in the Florida Home Landscape by Jonathan H. Crane, University of Florida

Pineapple Growing Tips & Fun Facts, web article

Tropical Permaculture, <https://www.tropicalpermaculture.com/>

Based on lecture by GERALYN SUHOR and THERESA WILFERT

Jamie Blazek
Master Gardener & Vegucator
Editor, *Gardengoer*

2020 Northshore Garden and Plant Sale

I hope everyone enjoyed their Holidays! Now that the New Year is here, we want to start preparing for the Plant Sale. The dates this year are Friday and Saturday, March 20 and 21, 2020, from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. The set-up date is on Thursday March 19, from 9:00 am until 6:00 pm. The Plant Sale is held at the Covington Fairgrounds and is the major fundraiser for the \$1000 scholarships STMGA gives yearly to St. Tammany Parish students who are majoring in an agriculture related field at one of the Louisiana state universities.



The chairman for each volunteer area will be available at the membership meeting on January 15, 2020 to describe the duties in each area and will also be available to answer any questions. Jan Pesses will have the sign-up sheets ready that day so you can choose what shift and what area you want to work. If you can't make the meeting, you can contact Jan with your volunteer preferences. We will have a written description of each area posted in MoM starting the first week of January.

Most members were given a green badge last year to keep and use at the Plant Sale. If you didn't get one, they will be available at the membership meetings and during set-up. If you have misplaced your badge, you will have to pay \$3.00 for a new one. Once you sign up to volunteer, you will be given an insert to put in your badge to grant you admission to the Plant Sale for free. If you don't volunteer to work at least one shift, you will have to pay the general admission of \$5.00 at the gate .



2020 Northshore Garden and Plant Sale, continued

There will be a catered reception on Thursday, March 19, 2020, at 4 pm for Vendors and master gardeners. Many vendors do allow you to purchase plants on Thursday.

Will is working on the speaker line-up. The flyer will be completed soon as we have the speaker names and topics. The flyers will be available for you to take at the membership meeting in January. Please put these all around the parish. Wherever you can! The flyer will also be emailed to you. Please send it to all of your contacts and post it on your Facebook page.



Photo by J Blazek

We want to have well-established plants to sell at the Backyard Plant booth. So start propagating now. We had such beautiful plants and flowers over the past few years. Keep up the good work!

Everyone involved in the planning of the Northshore Garden & Plant Sale is very excited about our 20th annual event. Call or email Julie Deus if you have any questions.

Julie Deus
Master Gardener
Plant Sale Co-chair

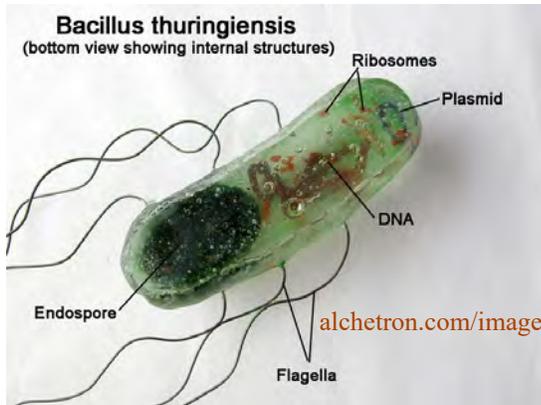
Vegucator Notes

Safe Chemicals for Sustainable Gardening: Part 5

Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt)



On March 27, 2019, Mimi Padgett presented a lecture to the Vegucators on Safe Chemicals for Sustainable Gardening. The following is part five of a series based on her lecture. She covered insecticidal soap, neem oil, pyrethrum, and spinosad in previous Gardengoer issues.



Bacillus thuringiensis, Bt, is a microbe naturally found in the soil. It makes proteins that are toxic to immature insects (larvae). There are many types of Bt and each one targets different insect groups. Target insects include beetles, mosquitoes, black flies, caterpillars, and moths. Bt has been registered for use by the EPA as a pesticide since 1961.

Bt strains are found in over 180 registered pesticide products. These products are used on crops and ornamental plants. Others are used in and around buildings, in aquatic settings and in aerial applications. These products are available as sprays, dusts, granules, and pellets. Some of these products are approved for use in organic agriculture. Some crops have been engineered (genetically modified) to make the Bt toxin. In this instance, Bt is a plant incorporated protectant, or PiP. Examples of these crops include corn, cotton, and soybeans.

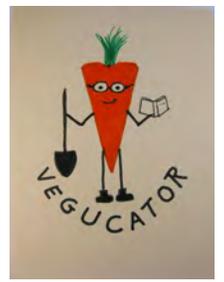
Bt works by making toxins that target insect larvae when ingested. In the gut, the toxins are activated. The activated toxin breaks down the larval gut, and the insects die of infection and starvation. Death can occur within a few hours or weeks. The different types of Bt create toxins that can only be activated in the target larvae. In contrast, when people eat the same toxins, the toxins are not activated, and no harm occurs. Each type of Bt toxin is highly specific to the target insect. For example, the “kurstaki” type targets caterpillars. The “Isrealensis” type targets immature flies and mosquitoes. Little or no direct toxicity to non-target insects has been observed.



Vegucator Notes

Safe Chemicals for Sustainable Gardening: Part 5

Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt), continued



In the environment, toxins created by Bt are rapidly broken down by sunlight and in acidic soil. Other microbes in soil can also break the toxins down. Bt does not readily leach into soil and it typically remains in the top several inches. Bt remains dormant in most natural soil conditions. On the soil surface, dormant Bt cells last only a few days. However, below the soil surface, they can last for months or years. The half-life in unfavorable soil is about 4 months. In water, Bt does not readily reproduce. In the air, Bt is broken down rapidly by sunlight. On plant surfaces, sunlight breaks down the Bt.

Bt is practically non-toxic and non-pathogenic to birds, fish, and shrimp. No adverse effect or infection was found in rats. There is no evidence that Bt can cause a disease outbreak among wild animals. Bt does not hurt earthworms. However, the aizawai strain is highly toxic to honeybees. Other strains have minimal toxicity to honeybees.

Bt can be purchased where other chemicals are sold. One application is “mosquito dunks” used to kill mosquitoes. Monterey Bt is ideal for controlling cabbageworm, tent caterpillars, gypsy moth, tomato hornworms and leaf eating



caterpillars. It has an OMRI listing for use in organic production. To use, mix one to one and a half tablespoons per gallon of water and apply when worms or caterpillars are first noticed, then repeat at five to seven-day intervals while they are active.

Always, always, READ THE LABEL and follow manufacturer's directions of every product!

References:

www.omri.org

www.gardeningknowhow.com

NPIC.orst.edu/factsheets/Bt

Mimi Padgett
Master Gardener
Vegucator Co-chair
STMGA Educational Outreach Chair

STMGA Holiday Celebrations 2019



Photo by J Pesses

Christmas party
at the Madisonville
Maritime Museum



Photo by J Pesses



Photo by J Pesses



Photo by J Pesses



Photo by G Kuehl



Photo by G Kuehl

Vegucator celebration at the
Kuehl's new home.



Photo by G Kuehl

Vegucator Notes

Hummm...ingbirds: Get Your Plants and Feeders Ready!



On August 28, 2019, Elizabeth Berzas presented a lecture to the Vegucators on hummingbirds.



Did you know that the humming sound you hear from this tiny little bird is created by the beating of their wings? The flapping wings' high frequency rate is audible to the human ear. Their tiny wings beat 80 or more times a second and 12 times per second in larger species! When flapping their wings, they can hover in place by making a figure eight motion (see References for a link to a slow motion film of a flying hummingbird.)

Hummingbirds are native to the Americas and are of the Trochilidae family. They are among some of the smallest birds. Most species measure three to five inches in length. The smallest extant bird species is a bee hummingbird that is five centimeters (about two inches) in length, weighing less than two grams (0.07 ounces). The bee hummingbird evolved to dwarfism likely because it had to compete with long-billed hummingbirds. The tiny size gave them an advantage for nectar foraging from specialized flowers. Bee hummingbirds, indigenous to Cuba, are becoming rare. They live for three to five years.

Aztecs wore hummingbird talismans made from actual hummingbird parts, emblematic for their vigor and energy. The warriors wore sharp beaks, symbolically mimicking instruments of weaponry, bloodletting, and intimacy. The god of war, Huitzilopochtli (meaning Southern Hummingbird), was often depicted as a hummingbird. The Aztecs believed that fallen warriors would return to earth as hummingbirds and butterflies.



Hummingbirds are restricted to living in the Americas from south central Alaska to Argentina, including the Caribbean islands. Most live in tropical and subtropical Central and South America, but some are in the Andean highlands in altitudes up to 17,100 feet.

Vegucator Notes

Humm...ingbirds:

Get Your Plants and Feeders Ready! continued



Black-chinned

There are 338 known species of hummingbirds in the world. In the United States, there are less than 25 species. Canada and Chile have 10 species each. In Colombia there are more than 160 species. Ecuador has 130 species.

The most commonly seen species in the eastern United States is the ruby-throated hummingbird. The black-chinned hummingbird is the most widespread and most common species in the southwestern United States.

Migration

During spring migration, when the days are longer and the weather clement, hummingbirds fly north through most of the United States. Their migration process starts late February and depends on travel time, weather, abundance of flowers and insects. People start to notice hummingbirds in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida in March. It takes a full month for the hummingbirds to get halfway up the United States. Hummingbirds arrive in the midwest around April. Canadians usually will see hummingbirds in May.



Ruby-throated



Allen's

In spring migration, males come first and claim a territory rich in nectar producing flowers. Hummingbirds have memory maps and return to areas visited during their previous years' nectar foraging. They use landmarks, not color, to find the nectar reward. Once the male stakes claim to a territory, he will chase away other males. He uses his needle-like beak as a shiv to stab another male in the throat, especially during mating season. He will choose his territory based on the abundance of flowers that will entice future migratory females to feed in his area.



Calliope

Vegucator Notes

Humm...ingbirds:

Get Your Plants and Feeders Ready! continued



The hummingbird's fall migration is at the end of August and into September. Most migrate south to spend winter in Mexico, the Caribbean Islands, or Central America. They are looking for warm temperatures and abundant food sources. Due to the summer heat, hummingbirds tend to eat in the early morning then travel during the day. In late afternoon, they stop to eat again to maintain their body weight. In September, you may see the tiny birds gather along the United States southern coast for one final flight south, either over the Gulf of Mexico or through Mexico. In winter months in southern Louisiana, you may see the black-chinned, buff-bellied, calliope, Allen's, Anna's, ruby-throated, rufous, broad-tailed, and broad-billed hummingbirds if the weather is mild.



Buff-bellied

The ruby-throated hummingbird is the most common in the United States. They are seen mostly in the east and return to the same place each year. The rufous hummingbird makes perhaps the longest migratory journey of any bird in the world. The rufous hummingbird is just over three inches long and can travel 3,900 miles one-way or 78,470,000 body lengths from Alaska to Mexico in late summer. Whew! That's a workout.



Rufous

For courtship and territorial competition, males have brightly varied feather coloration from pigmentation and prism-like cells. By shifting position, feathers of a muted-looking bird can instantly become fiery red or vivid green. Birds who ingest more protein have more colorful crown feathers and more yellow and green tail feathers.



Anna's

The male will go into his mating ritual and pretend to chase off the female as he flies in patterns of a "J", "U", or an "O". The male will ascend about 35 meters and dive over the female at speeds of 27 miles per second, which is equal to 385 body lengths/second, producing a high-pitched sound. (See video in references). This downward acceleration is the highest reported for any vertebrate. In this dive, males are trying to position themselves so that the sunlight reflects their colorful feathers.

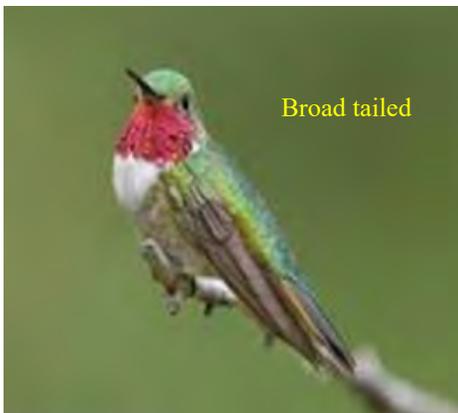
Vegucator Notes

Humm...ingbirds:

Get Your Plants and Feeders Ready! continued



Males do not take part in nesting. The hummingbird's nest is cup-shaped on the branch of a tree or shrub; smaller than half a walnut shell, several centimeters in diameter. The female uses spider silk and lichen to bind the nest material together. The silk allows the nest to expand as the baby hummingbirds grow. Hummingbirds lay one to three white eggs, about the size of jelly beans. Their eggs are large relative to the adult hummingbird's size. Incubation is 14-23 days. The mother feeds the babies by inserting her bill into their open mouths and regurgitating small arthropods and nectar.

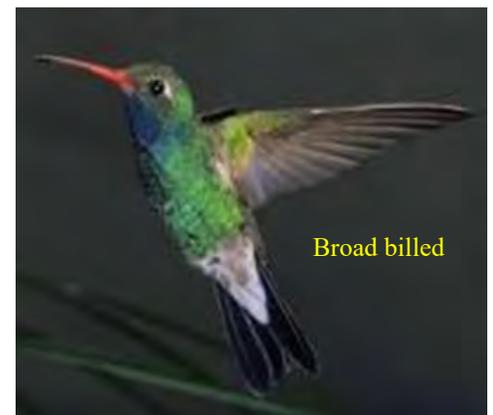


Broad tailed

The diet of an adult hummingbird, in addition to nectar, consists of insects, mosquitoes, fruit flies, gnats, aphids, and spiders. Their lower beak is flexible and bends 25 degrees when widened at the base which allows for a larger surface for catching insects. Hummingbirds hover within insect swarms to feed which is called "hover-hawking".

For energy, hummingbirds drink nectar and seek flowers with more than 10% sugar.

When feeding on nectar, their bill is opened only slightly to allow the tongue to dart out. Their beak size is about four inches. They drink with their tongues rapidly lapping up nectar. The tongue is forked and compressed until it reaches the nectar. Then the tongue springs open with rapid action and traps the sweet liquid. The nectar moves up grooves in the tongue in a pump-like action.



Broad billed

Hummingbirds spend 10–15% of their time feeding and 75–80% sitting and digesting. They eat many small meals and consume half their weight in nectar daily. Having such a high metabolism makes hummingbirds vulnerable to starvation.

Vegucator Notes
Humm...ingbirds:
Get Your Plants and Feeders Ready! continued



To attract hummingbirds into your yard, try these tips for your feeders.

- Place your feeders under a tree or some partial shade of a large bush, canopy or overhang from your house. Shade keeps the nectar water from spoiling.
- Placement of the feeder should be within 10 to 15 feet of protection. The farther from protection the less the feeder will get used.
- Place the feeder about five feet above the ground with nothing planted under it.
- Change the solution in the feeder every three to five days when the temperature rises.
- You can use a drop or two of mint oil to deter insects.
- White granulated sugar is the best to use in hummingbird feeders. One part sugar to four parts water, a 25% concentration. Organic, "raw" brown sugar, agave syrup, molasses, artificial sweeteners, honey can be harmful.



Image from LSUagcenter.com

Plants that attract hummingbirds:

Trees: Crybaby tree (*Erythrina crista-galli*), Japanese plum or loquat (*Eriobotrya japonica*), mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin*), citrus.

Shrubs: Turk's cap (*Malvaviscus arboreus*), Mexican cigar plant (*Cuphea ignea* and *C. micropetala*), shrimp plant (*Justicia brandegeana*), firespike (*Odontanema strictum*), hibiscus (*Hibiscus* spp.), lantana (*Lantana* spp.), azalea (*Rhododendron* spp.), pentas (*Pentas lanceolata*), red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*).

Vines: Coral honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*), cape honeysuckle (*Tecomaria capensis*), cypress vine (*Quamoclit pinnata*), trumpet creeper (*Campsis radicans*).

Annuals and perennials: Salvia (*Salvia splendens*, *S. coccinea*, *S. greggii*, *S. leucantha* and many others), pineapple sage (*Salvia rutilans*), iris (*Iris* spp.), red hot poker (*Kniphofia uvaria*), impatiens (*Impatiens walleriana*), coral plant (*Russelia equisetiformis*), cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), gilia or standing cypress (*Ipomopsis rubra*), bee balm (*Monarda fistulosa*).

Vegucator Notes
Humm...ingbirds:
Get Your Plants and Feeders Ready! continued



Now that you have a little more information about these fascinating birds, remember the dates of March 1 and September 1 for both the spring and the fall migrations.



It is the time to get your plantings in order and your feeders cleaned and prepped! Happy humming!

Be sure to check out the videos below to see these beauties in action.

References

Hovering hummingbird: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/transcoded/2/21/Hummingbird_feeding_closeup_2000fps.webm/Hummingbird_feeding_closeup_2000fps.webm.480p.vp9.webm

Courtship dive: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQUkdp9YCpU>

Wikipedia

[Http://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/communications/news/news_archive/2015/july/get-it-growing/garden-for-hummingbirds](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/communications/news/news_archive/2015/july/get-it-growing/garden-for-hummingbirds)

Editor's Note: The photos in this article were taken from Liz's PowerPoint presentation which has even more information on hummingbirds and can be found on the Agcenter classroom computer.

Elizabeth Berzas
Master Gardener &
Vegucator

Fall 2019 STMGA Seminar: Autumn, The Second Spring

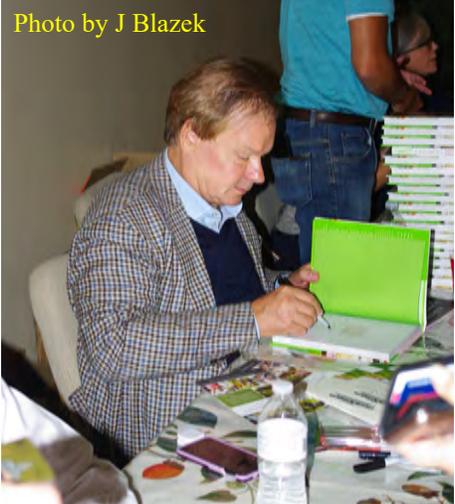
On September 27, 2019, STMGA hosted the fifth annual fall seminar entitled "Autumn, the Second Spring". Excitement about the event began early with the announcement that P. Allen Smith would be the keynote speaker, and Margot Shaw and June Mays as additional presenters.



Table talks were presented by experts in the fields of irises, native plants, and herbs. Additional experts were on hand to answer questions from attendees, including the staff at Longue Vue, as well as our own County Agent, Will Afton.



P. Allen Smith and Margot Shaw graciously signed their books for all.



Fall 2019 STMGA Seminar: Autumn, The Second Spring, continued

The event also boasted a wide array of beautiful plants and garden gloves in the Plant Boutique.



Photo by J Blazek



Photo by J Blazek

The lunch, provided by Dakota Restaurant, was a three-course meal, which included fresh vegetables from Covey Rise. And our awesome master gardener volunteers brought homemade snacks and beverages which were provided throughout the day.



Photo by J Blazek



Photo by J Blazek

Over 100 master gardener volunteers helped to put on this seminar. It was truly a community event. Attendees came from not only St Tammany, but also several surrounding parishes, and as far as Lafayette and the State of Mississippi. What a fun and informative event this was. Excited anticipation is already building for the fall seminar 2020!

Mary Kathryn Villere
Master Gardener
STMGA Secretary 2018-2019
2019 Fall Seminar Chair

New Year Resolutions for Master Gardeners

It's that time of the year when we create a list of New Year's resolutions. Here's a few green ones to consider adding to your list for 2020:

- Place at least one native plant in your garden this year.
- Re-think the size of your grass lawn.
- Leave your grass clippings on your lawn (or in your compost) and out of the landfill.
- Plant at least one berry bearing fruit bush to feed the birds.

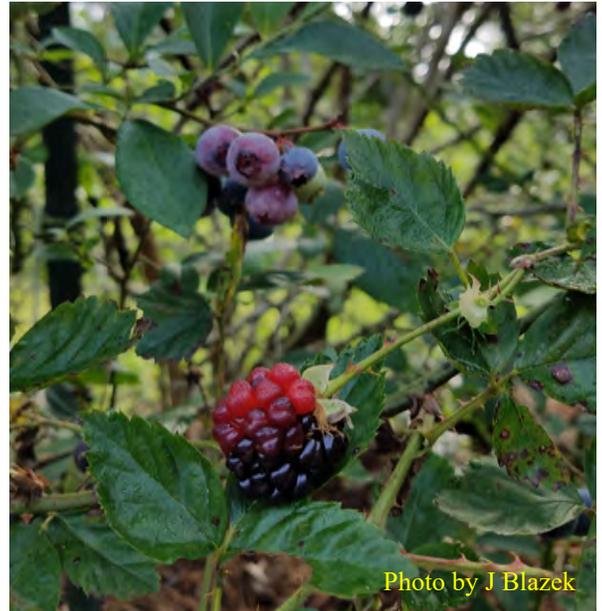


Photo by J Blazek



Photo by J Blazek

- Grow your own plants and give them as gifts this year.
- Create a compost bin.
- Share your garden harvest with the local food bank.
- Start a plant from seeds.
- Hang a bird feeder or a bat house. How about both!
- Start a milkweed garden for the butterflies.
- Show a child how to plant a vegetable garden.

Jamie Blazek
Master Gardener & Vegucator
Editor, *The Gardengoer*

THE GARDENGOER
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
ST. TAMMANY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION



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